
DIGEST

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HB 540 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Fontenot

Abstract: Provides relative to the number of video draw poker devices certain businesses may operate, to areas where video draw poker devices may not be granted, and to where revenue is allocated.

Proposed law increases the number of video draw poker devices permitted at certain alcoholic beverage facilities from three to four and provides criteria to qualify for additional video draw poker devices.

Proposed law increases the number of video draw poker devices permitted at truck stops from 50 to 60.

Proposed law increases the number of video draw poker devices permitted at hotels and motels from three to four for individual lounges and from 12 to 13 for the hotel or motel.

Proposed law provides that offtrack wagering facilities shall not be granted a license to operate video draw poker devices within one mile of any property on the National Register of Historic Places, any public playground, any residential property, or a building used primarily as a church, synagogue, public library, or school.

Proposed law provides for the designation of residential districts for the purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law provides relative to franchise fee rates and appropriation for revenue generated by video draw poker devices.

Proposed law provides for dedication of the first \$22M generated by franchise fees, above the amount generated in the 2024 fiscal year, to the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Subfund (hereafter the "subfund"), established pursuant to proposed law. Further dedicates 15% of those revenues generated each fiscal year in excess of \$22M to the subfund.

Proposed law requires revenue generated by proposed law and deposited into the subfund to be appropriated to the La. State Racing Commission within the office of the governor for allocation to various horse racing industry groups as provided in proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 27:412(B)(1) and (2), 413(A) and (B), 414(intro. para.), 416(A), (C)(2)(a)- (c) and

(3)(b), 437(C)(intro. para.), (3), and (4), and 439(Section heading); Adds R.S. 27:415(C)-(G), 437(C)(5), and 439(C) and (D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Amend R.S. 27:437 to allocate tax revenue to the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund.
3. Change the requirements that a restaurant or bar shall meet to add a fourth machine and remove the requirement that the gaming enforcement section remove a machine if the location falls under a certain net device revenue.
4. Add R.S. 27:439.1 to create the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund and allocate money to the fund for certain purposes.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove language regarding dedication of one-half of one percent of certain revenues.
2. Restructure language regarding flow of revenues generated by proposed law.
3. Establish a subfund within the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund for receipt of certain revenues pursuant to proposed law.
4. Make technical changes.